



# The Weekly Page

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## Pages Learn About Legislature



### Big ideas in government

Throughout the week pages grappled with understanding the three “big ideas” for a representative government: governing is a complex process, successful democracies rely on responsible citizens, and government affects our life every day. As they participated in daily discussions, readings and simulated committee hearing activities, their understandings around the concepts deepened.

### Anti-smokers rejoice!

Today, Senator Joey Corry introduced Senate bill 5283, which addresses the issue of cigarette and cigar smoking. “The bill is a good one because it will better the health of the citizens of Washington State,” said Sen. Corry. This bill will gradually decrease the production and importation of cigarettes into Washington State. Starting in 2010, the total production and importation of cigarettes yearly will decrease by five percent each year. By 2030, cigarette production and importation in Washington State will be outlawed. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.

### Emergency task force created

Today, Representative Samantha Amenn introduced House bill 2002, which addresses the issue of a state emergency task force. “The bill is a good one because it provides the people with

quick results during natural disasters,” said Rep. Amenn. The bill will give each district its own emergency task force. It will draw a few employees and resources from police departments, fire departments and the Coast Guard in order to create a special task force to handle disasters. Its only focus will be disasters, which means they will be able to put all of their attention to that problem. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.

### Extracurricular activity students receive school late start

**Olympia, WA** — Today, Representative Danika Montgomery introduced House bill 3018, which addresses the issue of school start times. “The bill is a good one because students involved in extra curricular activities who arrive home after midnight will receive a late start of 9 a.m. the next school day,” said Rep. Montgomery. This bill will provide adolescent teens with enough sleep in order to be alert and prepared during school. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.



### No driving limits for students who pass WASL

Today, Senator Bethany Jensen introduced Senate bill 7313, which addresses the issue of exempting students who pass the WASL from intermediate license restrictions. “The bill is a good one because it provides an incentive for students to try

harder to pass the test. It also provides a reward for the students who succeed,” said Sen. Jensen. Taking the WASL isn’t a favorite activity right now and there is not a great incentive to pass it. This bill would make students work harder to meet or exceed the standard in order to get the reward. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.



### House members legalize marijuana

**Olympia, WA** — Today, Representatives Evan Fowler, Ann Pederson, and Veronica Houser introduced House bill 1420, which addresses the issue of legalizing marijuana for medical and non-medical uses. “The bill is a good one because marijuana has useful medical purposes as well as advantageous properties,” said Rep. Fowler. In order to promote overall better health and pleasure of Washington citizens, our state legislature hopes to legalize the use of marijuana. However, to prevent dangerous or irresponsible uses of this drug, the age restriction on using marijuana shall be all citizens older than 18 years of age. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.

### Special birth certificates issued for parents of stillborns

Today, Representatives Tiffany Gamman, Allie Jasmer, and Henry Sanburg introduced House bill 1722, which addresses the issue of birth certificates for stillborn babies. “The bill is a good one because it helps parents through the grieving process,” said Rep. Gamman. Parents of stillborn babies deserve a certificate because, at one point, their babies were alive, too. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.



### Legislators create more jobs for students

Today, Representative Chris Johnson introduced House bill 1250, which addresses the issue of minimum job requirements for high school students. “The bill is a good one because it will increase the number of jobs available to high school students,” said Rep. Johnson. This bill will enable students who pass the WASL as sophomores to work at jobs that require a diploma while they are still in high school. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.



### Socratic seminar investigates the question “Are laws necessary?”

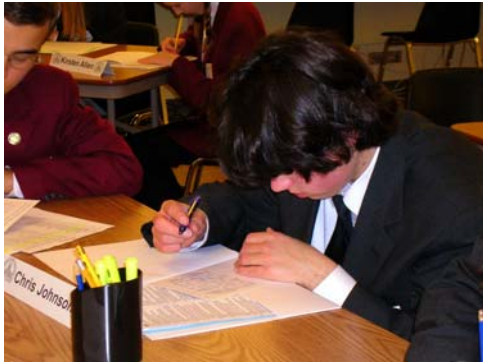
On Monday pages engaged in a Socratic-style discussion, in which they shared stimulating insights and questions around the topic of necessary legislation for a representative democracy. Students created criteria for judging the value of a law.



### Humans buy it, animals pay the price

**Olympia, WA** — Today, Representatives Adrian Simons-Wilson and Emily Hamack introduced House bill 2222, which addresses the issue of animal testing. “The bill is a good one because it will protect the animals by abolishing different methods of experimentation,” said Rep. Hamack. This bill makes animal experimentation illegal if the outcome is unknown. By showing some alternative solutions to testing products, animal

testing will no longer be necessary. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.



## Are schools starting too early?

Today, Representative Ryan Loutsis introduced House bill 2212, which addresses the issue of school starting times. "The bill is a good one because students will now be able to get enough sleep so they can learn better," said Rep. Loutsis. This bill will have schools start at 8:30 a.m. Currently students begin school too early, are tired while in school and do not learn to their fullest. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.

## Marijuana to be sold in stores

Today, Representative Tara-Beth Crowder introduced House bill 2431, which addresses the issue of legalizing marijuana. "The bill is a good one because, whether it is legal or not, people are going to use it. So why not make a profit?" said Rep. Crowder. The bill will prevent a great deal of drug-related violence. It will also bring in a profit as it will be sold in any certified store. With marijuana being legal, the hope is that after a while it won't be so popular. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.



## Say no to cattle trailers

Today, Senators Marrissa Alexander and Kirsten Allen introduced Senate bill 5443, which addresses the issue of the transportation of horses. "The bill is a good one because it will protect

horses that need to be transported within the state," said Sen. Allen. In order to prevent the horrible experience of forcing horses into cattle trailers, we are making these small trailers illegal for horses.. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.

## Finally, affordable Driver's Ed!

Today, Representatives J.B. Lange, Quinn Arnold, and Kassandra Kilpela introduced House bill 3000, which addresses the issue of driver's training fees. "The bill is a good one because there needs to be a cap on unreasonable prices charged for drivers education," said Rep. Lange. This bill will allow everyone in the public, rich or poor, to meet this price and obtain a drivers license before the age of 18, along with educating more people on what to do on the road. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.

## Express monorail from Everett to Seattle proposed

Today, Senator Alec Stewart introduced Senate bill 5674, which addresses the issue of building an express monorail. "The bill is a good one because the monorail would provide a fast, cheap and environmentally friendly means of transportation to the citizens of Western Washington," said Sen. Stewart. A 1.2 million population increase is expected in Western Washington by 2030. The express monorail would travel 80 miles per hour and would have five stops in Everett, Seattle, Sea-Tac, Tacoma and Olympia. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.



## Pages write bills

Pages worked individually or in small groups to write bills designed to address issues which were relevant to them. Topics for bills included changing starting times for high school students, abolishing cattle trailers for hauling horses, and requiring senior citizens to take driving tests before renewing their li-



censes. They reflected real issues that affect teenage lives in Washington State. Bills were later presented for consideration in the mock committee hearings toward the end of the week.



### Fossils fuels reduced

Today, Senators Clinton Brink, Alexander Coddington, and Justin Cave introduced Senate bill 5555, which addresses the issue of fossil fuel reductions. “The bill is a good one because it reduces the pollution of our air, makes the ocean less acidic, and helps people with respiratory problems,” said Sen. Coddington. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.

### Restrictions put on pit bull owners

**Olympia, WA** — Today, Senator Anastasia Boyer introduced Senate bill 5775, which addresses the issue of owning pit bull dogs. “The bill is a good one because it will help keep society safe,” said Sen. Boyer. Everybody who owns a dangerous dog must have a license and a special insurance policy in case the dog attacks someone. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.



### Abortion abolished

Today, Senator Katherine Boyer introduced Senate bill 5675, which addresses the issue of abortion. “The bill is a good one because it protects unborn children,” said Sen. Boyer. No woman can have an abortion, according to the bill. Doctors who perform abortions will be charged with murder. A network will be pro-

vided for people who want to adopt the children of mothers who don't want to keep them. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.

### Academic students don't need PE

Today, Representative Jess Emde introduced House bill 1928, which addresses the issue of high school physical education as a graduation requirement. “The bill is a good one because today's students are being forced to basically work out for an hour each day during school, when they could be preparing themselves for college,” said Rep. Emde. Schools are here to prepare students for their future careers. If a student wants to be a pro athlete, they should take PE, but if they want to be a scientist, they should spend their school time studying biology and chemistry. Being healthy is an essential part of life, but the PE classes offered in middle and elementary schools, along with mandatory high school health classes, should adequately prepare students for a healthy life. High school students are young adults who have the capacity to choose which classes are right for them. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.



### Railroads get makeover

Today, Representative Ashley Engelman introduced House bill 3562, which addresses the issue of traffic safety at railroad crossings. “The bill is a good one because it increases public safety without much of a cost,” said Rep. Engelman. The bill mandates that all railway crossings in Washington state must have a traffic control device. The money for these devices will come from fines paid by taxpayers who get traffic violation tickets and fines to the cities for not complying. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.

## Keep minors away from tobacco

Today, Senators Emily Schalka and Elizabeth Sharma introduced Senate bill 6077, which addresses the issue of tobacco and minors. "The bill is a good one because it protects our young citizens from tobacco habit problems," said Sen. Schalka. This bill prohibits the use of tobacco around minors or near buildings of public use. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.



## Exonerations growing rapidly

Today, Senator James Boker introduced Senate bill 5528, which addresses the issue of the Washington State death penalty. "The bill is a good one because it will reduce the amount of innocent victims put to death," said Rep. Boker. This bill will prohibit the penalty of death in the State of Washington. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.

## Abortion banned

Today, Senator Daniel Berkompas introduced Senate bill 5061, which addresses the issue of abortion in Washington State. "The bill is a good one because it is necessary to stop this atrocity which is rampant throughout our nation. Though the Holocaust is universally denigrated, and rightfully so, very few people are informed of the other holocaust which is going on right now throughout the country," said Sen. Berkompas. This bill bans all abortions in the state of Washington and imposes the death penalty for some infractions. The Senator defends this bill with the argument that severe punishments encourage obedience, and that murders on such a massive scale deserve a punishment at least equal to other punishments for manslaughter. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.

## Limit homework for a better education

Today, Representatives Anna Milliren, Rose Epperson, and Claudia Duran introduced House bill 3210, which addresses the issue of reducing the amount of homework high school and middle school students are assigned each night. "The bill is a good one because students won't be staying awake until late in the

night to complete a homework assignment. It's just crazy," said Rep. Duran. This bill will decrease the quantity of homework students receive each night. Middle school students will receive a maximum of 90 minutes of homework each night and high school students will receive a maximum of 120 minutes each night. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.



## Death Penalty Revised

Today, Senator Alexandria Applebee introduced Senate bill 5160, which addresses the issue of the death penalty. "The bill is a good one because it eliminates an old fashioned and out-dated process of execution," said Sen. Applebee. The bill eliminates the process of hanging, and keeps the process of lethal injection. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb 1, 2007.

## Pages lobby their own bills

Pages practiced lobbying techniques as they encouraged their colleagues to support their bills in mock committee hearings. They created media releases to help in influencing their peers to vote for their legislation.



## Proof of life needed for stillborn children

Today, Representatives Sarah Lee, Andrew Roley, and Danni Mansfield introduced House bill 2007, which addresses the issue of birth certificates for stillborn children. "The bill is a

good one because parents deserve the right to have verification that their child was once alive,” said Rep. Mansfield. How can there be death without there first being life? This is the fundamental question behind this bill. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.



## Committees debate bills, vote

Simulated committee hearings were held on Thursday. Pages read their bills and “committee members,” governed by the rules of parliamentary procedure, debated the pros and cons of the proposals. A “DO PASS” or “DO NOT PASS” recommendation was then voted upon, allowing a bill to continue on in the legislative process. As in the real process, some bills died in committee.

## Innocent people being executed

Today, Representative Sara Buchanan introduced House bill 2010, which addresses the issue of the death penalty. “The bill is a good one because it can save lives and also teach lessons. Innocent people are being executed,” said Rep. Buchanan. In the U.S. over 111 people have been released after DNA testing proved they could not have been the person committing the crime they were convicted of. Six hundred sixty-three people have been executed, many of whom could have been innocent. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.



## Simple majority called for in school levies

Today, Senator Alyson Simeone introduced Senate bill 6790, which addresses the issue of school levies. “The bill is a good one because it creates more fairness within the voting system, and ensures more youth a quality education,” said Sen. Simeone. Numerous schools are not receiving the proper resources to function academically or in extra curricular activities because of the current super-majority vote requirement. The reasons for initially implementing the super-majority vote requirement are no longer relevant in today's society. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.



## Guest speakers visit Page School

Representative Sam Hunt (D-Olympia); Naomi Watkins, intern with Rep. Eric Pettigrew; Allen Hayward, senior House minority counsel; and Doug Southerland, Commissioner of Public Lands joined the pages during classes on Wednesday. Each spoke about what led them to their current positions and shared interesting information about their jobs. Pages were able to interact with these guests by asking questions and sharing their own views in response to the speaker's questions.



## Elderly driving restrictions adopted

Today, Senator Joseph Moreno introduced Senate bill 5133, which addresses the issue of elderly drivers. “The bill is a good one because it will prevent senior citizens from getting into car



crashes,” said Sen. Moreno. The bill will require people over the age of 75 to take a driving test every two years in order to renew their license. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.



### Pages celebrate at Thursday pizza party

Thursday afternoon, pages took a break from their regular duties and socialized with each other while eating pizza. This was an opportunity for House and Senate pages to mingle at the Page Appreciation Pizza Party.

### *Jeopardy* creates hit

On Friday pages tested their knowledge of the Legislative process in a spirited game of *Jeopardy*. Winning teams were awarded certificates and brightly colored stickers that they wore proudly for the rest of the day.



### Historical pages

Our Legislature has employed pages for many years. This photo is of pages who served in past years. The first female page served in 1937. In the past, pages were required to do ironing and cleaning for members.



### New rules for skiers

Today, Representative Jesse Seidman introduced house bill 1234, which addresses the issue of ski and snowboard safety. “The bill is a good one because it will limit the risk of serious head accidents on the mountain,” said Rep. Seidman. This bill will require all resorts to promote the use of helmets. The legislature will give resorts money to help with the promotions. A \$1 charge will be added to each helmet bought to help fund a program to buy helmets for those who can’t afford them. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 1, 2007.



### Page School teachers

The Washington State Legislature’s 2007 Page School employs teachers Judi Orr and Laurel Johns, both of whom are certificated teachers with civics backgrounds.



### Page School on the web

The Page School has its own web site. You can find us at: [www1.leg.wa.gov/WorkingwithLeg/PageSchool/](http://www1.leg.wa.gov/WorkingwithLeg/PageSchool/). This newsletter has been posted there.

# *Autographs*